

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /088 W

-----112730 210359Z /13

R 191131Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6399

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USINT HAVANA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 1173

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, RW

SUBJECT: RWANDAN ATTENDANCE AT HAVANA NON-ALIGNED YOUTH MEETING

1. ACCORDING TO MID-LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE, RWANDA SENT A DELEGATION OF TEN TO TAKE PART IN HAVANA NON-ALIGNED YOUTH FESTIVAL. DELEGATION WAS LED BY FONMIN DIRGEN FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS ATHANASE GATANAZI (WHO SPEAKS FLUENT RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH AS WELL AS SOME SPANISH) PLUS THREE OFFICIALS FROM MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SIX "OTHERS." SOURCE SAID GATANAZI WAS CHOSEN TO HEAD DELEGATION PARTLY BECAUSE OF LANGUAGE ABILITY AND PARTLY BECAUSE HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF YOUTH.

2. DELEGATION DEPARTED KIGALI ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO AND EXPECTS TO BE GONE ANOTHER FOUR WEEKS. THEIR ITINERARY IS A CURIOUS ONE: THEY TRAVELED FIRST TO MOSCOW, THEN TO BLACK SEA, WHERE THEY JOINED OTHER FESTIVAL DELEGATES CRUISING BY SHIP TO HAVANA.

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3. COMMENT: WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT GOR, WHOSE TOP OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US AT SOVIET/CUBAN INROADS IN CENTRAL AFRICA, CHOSE TO SEND DELEGATION TO HAVANA FESTIVAL, PARTICULARLY VIA SOVIET KWUHE. WE SUSPECT (BUT HAVE NO EVIDENCE) THAT TRAVEL WAS FINANCED BY SOVIET EMUSSUM PERHAPS RWANDANS

BELIEVED THAT PARTICIPATION AT HAVANA WOULD BOTH SERVE
TO REINFORCE GOR NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS AND TO PROVIDE
THEM SOME "INTELLIGENCE" ON SOVIET AND CUBAN SKULL-
DUGGERY.
CRIGLER

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NNN

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